

# GRACE AND EDUCATION MAKE COAL HEAVER NOTED DIVINE AND GREAT POWER FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD

Story of Alexander Douglas, as Told by Doctor Conwell, Full of Inspiration

Young Scotchman Had Ambition and Philadelphia Pastor Helped Him on His Way

"Must Know More Before I Can Do More," Declared Struggling Young Man

This is the second of a series of articles by Doctor Conwell, telling of the birth and work of Temple University.

By DR. RUSSELL H. CONWELL

Alexander Douglas was a Scotch coal-heaver (I must pause here to ask the pardon of the successful and noble-spirited clergyman whose Christian life and potent influence for good has given a sweet taste to my life through these many years, and his appearance when he first came into the little room called the Pastor's Study, at Mervine and Berks streets, was a hopeless exhibition of undetermined ambition. He said that Davies had told him of the interview he had with the writer, and he wondered if there was any possible hope for a young man like him to be anything more than a dweller in coal dust. His hands and face were far more suggestive of the hot regions of Africa than of the heather-covered hills of Scotland, but his hair was consistent with the highland life.

The interview with Mr. Douglas I give as near as I can recall it, again asking his pardon for any errors which may be found therein.

Lacked Opportunity

Question—"Would you tell me why I have been so disappointed in America? My parents led me to believe that if they came, or if I came to America, that there would be opportunities in plenty to make more of myself than could be done in old, bigoted Scotland. And yet I do not know of any more hard and unprofitable occupations than that of shoveling coal, and I have not been able to find any other employment. Of course, I am willing to shovel coal, as it is an honorable occupation and in it one earns an honest living, but I never wash my face after the day's work without thinking how nice it would be to be able to write all the time. Why can't I learn something and be worth more to the people than I am now?"

"Davies told me the other night that you said that any young man in America had an open door before him to greater things, and I have laid awake nearly all night, and meditated on the matter all day, and I am unable to find anything."

Answer—"Tell me deliberately, and with open frankness, what you would like to be if you had everything laid out before you for your acceptance."

Question—"It was my parents' ambition, and it has been mine in my dreams, to be a preacher of the gospel—in some way a proclaimer of good for all the people. But I regret that that is utterly beyond the possibility of attainment. I have made up my mind that if by studying evenings or at the noon-hour I can do a little more than I am doing now, I will be content with that."

"I would like to have a place in the coal office, where I will not be obliged to work so hard and fill my lungs so full of coal dust. This is what I want—viz: to earn a little more at some occupation which will give me time to study or read."

Answer—"If you can find some friend who understands bookkeeping and who can write shorthand, you had better apply yourself to that work and, as soon as possible, make yourself efficient in bookkeeping and stenography. There is always a place open to stenographers and bookkeepers. The market is never fully supplied with them."

Question—"But I do not know of any friend who is capable of teaching me, or who would be willing to do so without charging me more than I am able to pay. When my board is paid each week, I have only \$3.50 left over toward my clothing and general expenses. I cannot afford to ride on the street cars, and so am obliged to use up a great deal of time in walking to the store, to the best office or to the church. This old suit which I now have on is the best I have, and I sneak into church and sit in some back seat for fear people will notice me and regard me as a loafer, because of my attire."

"But, somehow, I cannot give up the ambition to be a preacher. Yet, when I hear these evangelists speaking upon the street corners, and the Salvation Army in the streets, I cannot feel that I could go into such an occupation unless I had a better knowledge of the language than they seem to have, and more complete apprehension of the importance of the message to be delivered. I must know more before I can do more. Davies has started in with his books, and my dear friend, Mr. Hall, has done the same, and I am anxious that they should not get ahead of me. I am willing to go without my noon lunch, or to stay away from church, and save the money now spent on food and clothes if it is worth while to do so. Show me a glimmer of a chance and I will leap for it with all my strength."

Scottish Grit Needed

Answer—"If you hold to that resolution, true to your Scotch grit, you cannot fail in reaching as high a place in the world's achievements as is ever gained by any person with your natural ability."

"When the door does not seem to be open, you should push it open. Get up, and push!"

"I have made up my mind, since talking with several young men like you, to start an evening class for study, and try my best to assist each

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Doctor Conwell in his study

to gain a little each day in his journey toward greater usefulness to the world. The class will be held every Tuesday and Saturday here in my study, and if I can interest friends who will work with me, we will arrange the classes for the young men who attend into sections suited to their grade of learning and do all that we can to give a start to each. So, come into the meeting on Saturday night at 8 o'clock, and come in your working clothes, remembering that you will be the equal of any who will be here; and then open your heart freely in the presence of the others, in



Doctor Conwell's only recreation is an occasional ten minutes at the piano when he is very tired



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stating what you would be if you could. In this land of America there must be some way of satisfying such ambitions, and the very existence of democratic liberty requires that such as you are should have an opportunity to discipline their minds and increase their knowledge. If you make up your mind irrevocably that you will be a preacher and if you are willing to do the humble and small things in the beginning, and do them thoroughly, you will soon find the highway cleared for your advance. I cannot tell you how it will come to pass, but I do not prophesy with reference to details, but the history of America shows that many men have accomplished great things for the world whose beginnings were as hopeless as yours. You have good health; you have a Scotch inheritance; you have the disposition to be of use to your fellow-men; and all that you seem to need is the opportunity to study. I will do the best I can to open that door for you, although the lack of means will be conspicuous."

**Natural Ability Great**

"Your natural ability is an inheritance for which you should be thankful. And if to that you add culture and valuable learning, you will gain all there is to be gained in this life of ours. Do not hesitate; do not make excuses; do not allow any delay or disappointment to interfere for a moment with your settled, unshakable determination to have the education needful for a preacher of the gospel of righteousness."

"Go to the library and get a book containing the biography of some clergyman who, beginning in some peasant hut, has occupied a seat at the highest councils of the British empire. Read it carefully, considering his difficulties and yours, and follow the suggestions which his life will furnish. The lives of such men in America furnish so large a section of every library that you could hardly go amiss by putting your hand on the first volume you saw in the section of American biography, for it would probably be the history of some man who has shoveled coal for a living, or laid pavements in the street, or picked berries for his board. Give battle to outward circumstances, and the greater the opposition the greater

must be your courage and your ambition. The way is open. Start in without an hour's delay. Go to the library tonight before it closes and hunt for some helpful, inspiring book, giving the history of some good, and great, and successful man. You will be surprised to find how much like him you are and how similar are the battles you will have to win. But never surrender an inch of territory nor go back of the front line of your advance at any time. Be sure and know more tomorrow than you know today. If you show the right metal and make sacrifices willingly, as a present investment for future use, you will find friends along the way who will gladly assist you over the difficult places. Come in and join the class."

(Continued Tomorrow)

### PLAN TO PAY DR. BRANDT

Former Pedagogy Principal May Receive High School Post

As a plan for paying Dr. Francis Burke Brandt, former principal of the disbanded School of Pedagogy, his back salary at the rate of \$4000 a year, the finance committee of the Board of Education has decided to recommend to the board his appointment to a \$4000 professorship in the West Philadelphia High School, with the salary dating from the time of his discharge last September.

This decision was reached when the committee again took under consideration what remuneration, if any, should be given Dr. Brandt, in view of the fact that the teachers who were on his staff had already been paid their back salary, at the rate of \$1800 per annum.

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### JEWELERS ARE HOSTS TO SERVICE MEMBERS

Co-operation of Guild in War Theme of Speeches at Dinner

Leading jewelers of Philadelphia joined in giving a testimonial dinner at the Ritz-Carlton to several of their number who have been members of the Jewelers' war service committee and have just completed their services in behalf of the government.

The affair was held last night under the auspices of the Manufacturing Jewelers' Association of Philadelphia. It was in the nature of a jubilee meeting, with speakers pointing out the spirit of co-operation shown by the jewelry industry with the government during the war. Phillip S. Kind, of S. Kind & Sons, was toastmaster.

The dinner was given in honor of William A. Stricker, vice president of the industry, and his co-workers on the Jewelers' war service committee, Myer Rothchild, Harry C. Larter, DeWitt Davidson and Lawrence Gardner, of New York city.

It was pointed out by speakers that the members of the committee had given their time and efforts to helping government officials in determining definitions of the many different terms in the war revenue act as it affects jewelers, in co-operating in the conservation of platinum, and rendering valuable service by making clear to the jewelers of the country the requirements of the government in the revenue act.

Among the speakers were Ralph Putnam, of J. E. Caldwell & Co.; Dr. Forest Bachman, of the jewelry department of the Wanamaker store; and Fred Hurlburt, of H. O. Hurlburt & Son. Each Jacobinoff, the violinist, was a guest of honor.

### POSTAL INSPECTOR CITED

Major Frank W. Smith Awarded Distinguished Service Cross

Major Frank Wilbur Smith, 1020 Dunham avenue, Logan, formerly a postal inspector under Chief Cortelyou, has been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross by Chief of the Eighty-ninth Division.

Major Smith has served as intelligence and operations officer with the division staff.

The citation recommending him for the decoration follows:

"For exceptionally meritorious service in duties of great responsibility in time of war. Major Smith reorganized and placed in efficient operation the present motor dispatch service of the American expeditionary forces, by which the most important communications of highly confidential matters are expeditiously transmitted. A reserve officer of no previous military experience, he has shown ability of a high order, qualifying as a general staff officer and serving with exceptional ability on the general staff of a front-line combat division."

**Defective Wire Causes Fire**

A defective electric wire caused a \$500 fire in the home of Miss Corn Ryan, 3908 Chestnut street, shortly after 10 o'clock today. The fire started under the dining room on the first floor and spread to the rooms occupied as offices by Dr. M. K. Elmer in the front of the house. Most of the damage was caused by water, which gutted the lower part of the house.

### U. OF P. ALUMNI ORGAN RESENTS "MUZZLING"

Attempt to Have Faculty Censor Editorials of "Register" Opposed

An attempt to "muzzle" the "Alumni Register," the official alumni publication of the University of Pennsylvania, is meeting with strong disapproval from the editors.

The controversy harks back to the celebrated Scott Nearing free-speech agitation several years ago.

Specifically, the "Register" charges in an editorial in its current issue that an attempt is being made to have Provoost Smith and Thomas W. Hulme, president of the General Alumni Society, sit as censors of "all editorials or articles covering vital questions of policy affecting the University."

This attempt is foreshadowed, according to the publication, in an effort by Hulme to secure an amendment to the by-laws of the General Alumni Society giving him control of the finances and of the policy of the "Register."

Horace M. Lippincott, editor of 1887, is editor of the magazine. The editorial asks the alumni to campaign against the domination of the "Register" columns and says interference "will lead to anarchy and mediocrity."

Regarding its opinions and criticisms on University affairs in the past, the "Register" says they were always made for the benefit of the institution. Meanwhile, pending adjustment of the dispute, the "Register" says it intends to continue to publish its editorials and discussion of University matters until the policy of the "Register" is clearly decided.

### STUDENTS OPPOSE TRAINING

Penn Daily Criticizes Effort to Establish Reserve Officers' Class

Penn students are weary of things military and will look coolly on any effort to establish a reserve officers' training corps. This is the opinion, frankly expressed, of the Pennsylvania student daily at the University of Pennsylvania.

The students, now that they are through with the S. A. T. C., want to see the government, it believes, is making a "pep" move in trying to re-establish an officers' training class at the University.

Says the student publication: "To attempt an R. O. T. C. at this time in unwise, expressing it mildly. Unless made compulsory (a thing entire-

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